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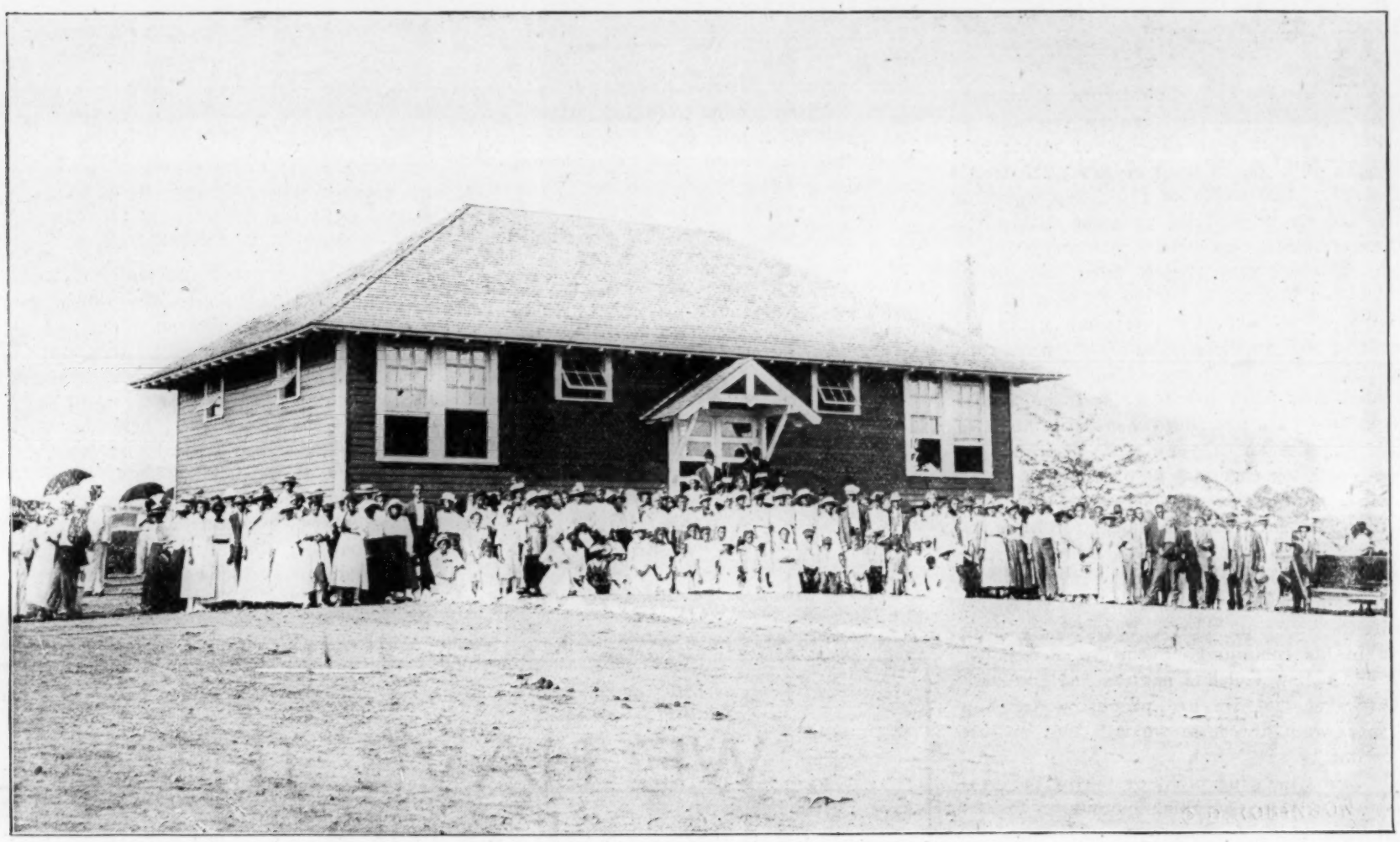
The Negro Farmer and Messenger

Published Bi-Weekly in the Interest of the Home, Farm and Garden; especially devoted to the Interest of Negro Land Owners and Tenant Farmers and Those Who Employ Negro Labor. The Only Negro Farm Newspaper in the World to be Circulated Among 2,000,000 Black Farmers.

Vol. 3 TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, ALA., September 23, 1916 No. 19



Mitchell Springs Schoolhouse, Chambers County, Alabama.

Dedication of Mitchell Springs Schoolhouse

BY BOOKER T. WASHINGTON, Jr.

A little more than a year ago I visited Mitchell Springs community, in Chambers County, Alabama, between Fayette and West Point, and found the teacher, Mr. Henry Tolbert, trying to instruct his several pupils in a dilapidated structure which was being used as a secret society hall and schoolhouse combined. The little house was entirely too small to accommodate the number of pupils enrolled, besides being poorly ventilated, lighted and void of the proper furnishings such as good desks, suitable black-boards. At night when the trustees and patrons returned to their homes from work, a meeting was called to take place in the community church building to talk over school affairs. Here, I told them about the Julius Rosenwald Fund and how the rural people at other places were taking advantage of the Rosenwald and State aids and erecting modern and attractive schoolhouses. They decided that it would be easy for them to build, and they started to work immediately to make the necessary arrangements, and to raise funds. The methods of raising these funds varied, but, in the main, the money came from the colored people themselves. Some gave as little as one cent, others made their contributions in labor, others in material, and still others in team hire. The attitude of the white people towards the building of a colored schoolhouse was very favorable. Mr. Tolbert, the teacher, Mr. William Barrow, a trustee, and myself canvassed the town of West Point and succeeded in getting liberal donations from the white merchants. After the required amount of money was raised, the building was started, and Mr. Monroe Rea, a colored contractor, has succeeded in completing one of the best built schoolhouses for Ngroes in Alabama. The total cost of the building being about $1,000. The Rosenwald fund contributed $300, the State $305, and the remainder was given by both white and colored subscriptions. The schoolhouse is built upon two acres of land given by Mr. William Barrow, colored, who owns more than one hundred acres of land and is a good farmer, much respected by the people in his community. Mr. Barrow is sixty years old, can neither read nor write, but he is willing to do all he can to assist his race.

On September 8th this schoolhouse was dedicated. On the day of the dedicatorial exercises the trustees, patrons and Mothers' Club served a big barbecue, from which a large amount of money was raised and turned over to the school building fund. A choir from LaFayette, Alabama, furnished excellent music which was highly enjoyed by all. Speeches were made by the County Superintendent of Education, Hon. G. M. Barnett and other white officials; also Mr. C. J. Calloway, Director of the Extension Department, who complimented the people on having a modern and attractive building in their community.

What Some of the Leading Farmers in Tennessee are Doing

Mr. A. D. Shelton, who lives nine miles Northwest of Somerville, Fayette County, Tennessee, owns 340 acres of land; runs five plows; he raises all his foodstuff at home; has not bought any meat in 20 years; has 16 head of cows; has a fine ranch for his cattle; has 21 head of hogs; sold this year $400 worth of cattle, $75 worth of hogs, $25 worth of sorghum syrup, $50 worth of fruit, $25 worth of peas, $100 worth of corn, $130

worth of cotton seeds, $700 worth of cotton, $28 worth of chickens and eggs, $25 worth of geese feathers and has fifty head of geese on his yard. He taught school 22 years; while teaching he saved his money and bought property; he has six children, three of them are teachers. He has a nice seven-room dwelling house; he also has a nice barn for his stock; keeps an evergreen garden; sold this year $50 worth of watermelons, $16 worth of vegetables; will save this year 100 tons of hay, 2,000 bundles of fodder; his wife has 130 chickens on her yard. Mr. Shelton owns $1,500 worth of property in Hardemon County, Tennessee, and is well respected by both white and colored in his county. He is planning to attend the Tuskegee Negro Conference January 17, 1917.

C. C. Hodges of Collierville, Tennessee, owns 150 acres of land; raises foodstuff at home; sold this year 125 lbs. of meat; sold 18 head of hogs, 10 head of cows, $35 worth of poultry, $40 worth of fruit, $60 worth of hay, $30 worth of Irish potatoes, $30 worth of watermelons. He owns a jack and a Jenny, and realizes every year from the services of his jack $225. He raised this year 28 bushels of wheat; he keeps an evergreen garden, and furnishes the community with vegetables free of charge. He has a nice, painted four-room dwelling, and the fences around his yard are whitewashed; he has two mule colts under a year old. He and his wife work together; he is planning to build a good, comfortable schoolhouse in his community. In fact, he is a model for his community. He also carries a $1,000 insurance policy on his house.

He said to Mr. Rakestraw, the Negro Conference Agent, in a Farmers' meeting held in his community Saturday, September 2, "The boll weevil has not reached our community yet, but we are preparing for him so that when he comes we will live on just the same."

He plans to bring eight or ten of the progressive farmers of this community to the Tuskegee Negro Conference, January 17, 1917. He is arranging with the railroad company for a special car for his delegates.

Mr. George W. Parker, of Warren, Tenn., owns 150 acres of land; he raises his foodstuffs on his farm; he has six head of horses, 8 head of cattle, 12 head of hogs, has sold this year $125 worth of live stock, sold $15 worth of poultry; his wife, Mrs. Parker has 130 chickens on the yard. Mr. Parker makes 200 gallons of syrup every year. He is interested in the education of his community; he has a plan on foot to unite three schools so as to build a $1,500 school building.

A Helpful Community Meeting

By Kimuel Huggins, Supervisor Rural Schools, Macon County, Alabama

On September 8, 1916, the people of new Rising Star community held one of the most successful Educational Meetings of the year. The crowd gathered at the schoolhouse at about 7:30 a. m., a number of people brought canned fruit, vegetables, cotton, corn, and other farm products with them. These exhibits were arranged in the front end of the class room on shelves that had been carefully built and neatly whitewashed.

After the exhibits were put up, the meeting was called to order by Mr. J. A. Barney. Scripture was read and prayer was offered by Rev. A. J. Motley, after which the Glee Club sang, "Good News, Chariot Is Coming."

The opening remarks were made by Prof. Barney. He outlined in a most interesting way the plans and desires for the present and future development of the community, pointing out at the same time the best methods by which these plans could be effected.

Mr. J. D. Carlton gave a very interesting talk on, What to Plant When and How. "I earnestly hope, said Mr. Carlton, that the people of this community will wake up to the extent that they can realize the importance of planting something to eat at home. Let me advise, that those of you, who have not already planted your gardens go home and plant tomorrow; you may plant turnips, rutabagas, radishes, onions, beets, lettuce, kale, cabbage, and cauliflower. Every farmer in the community should plant some wheat, oats and rye this fall. If you have not got enough fence or if you are not able to buy wire you can go to the woods and cut poles and build a fence."

The audience was next favored with a duet by Misses Ida Graham and Ella Carlton.

The next thing that attracted attention was a debate. Resolved: that the Boll Weevil is a blessing to the farmers of Macon County. It was explained by Prof. Barney that this subject had been debated in a meeting previous to this and that it had been requested by several that it be discussed again on this occasion.

Those who took part in the debate were as follows: Affirmative, Mr. Booker Johnson, Mr. Derry Howard and Miss Orie Graham; negative, Mr. J. D. Carlton, Mr. Joseph Motley and Miss Ida Graham. The debate was made very interesting by these young people. The judges, Miss Brooks, Mr. Vernon Barnet and Mr. A. L. Huggins, decided that the negative won.

Mr. E. D. Rainer, one of the trustees of this school, told the audience, "How He Was Living With the Boll Weevil." He held up some peanuts, corn, potatoes, and sugar cane that had been grown on his place." These things, he said, "enable me to live with the boll weevil."

Mr. Vernon W. Barnet, editor of the Negro Farmer and Messenger, was then introduced. Mr. Barnett gave a very helpful and inspiring talk. He stated that he was surprised to see such splendid exhibits. "I earnestly hope that you people of this community are going to take advantage of the splendid opportunities that you have here, that you are going to stand by your teachers in their endeavor to train these boys and girls to be useful men and women."

Mr. Barnett called attention of the farmers to the Negro Farmer and Messenger. He stated that it was up to the colored people to make this paper succeed.

After Mr. Barnett's speech some of the people who brought exhibits were called on to say something. Those who brought exhibits were, Mr. E. D. Rainer, Mr. and Mrs. R. Myers, Mr. and Mrs. E. Graham, Mrs. Carlton, Mrs. Carrie Howard, Miss Ida Graham, Miss Ella Carlton and Christina Carlos.

The audience was then favored by a selection from the Glee Club. After which announcements were made and the meeting was adjourned.

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Farmers Ought to Read More

By F. H. CARDOZO,
Director of the Agricultural Department of the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical College, Tallahassee, Florida

There are a larger number of farmers who can read, than we give credit for. As I get about occasionally in the country, go over my friend's farm carefully, eat dinner in his house, go over with him certain things that interest him most on his land, I see him proudly show a representative Southern farm paper, and in one case, the New York "Produce News," received weekly, and these are separate from a Semi-Weekly Newspaper.

This observation has for a number of years, made me advocate more and more that our farmers read the farm **Bulletins** sent them with just a little more interest, than they are accustomed to doing.

I admit that some bulletins sent are too technical and dry for most farmers of any race to read. Even the Agricultural Bulletins that are primarily made up for advertising purposes, printed by certain manufacturing firms, have tremendous educational value, and should be read by our farmers, even if they never buy the seed, fertilizer, or machinery advertised between the lines and elsewhere.

It is my custom to carry along with me on each and every country trip, from 25 to 100 of these assorted bulletins as a "follower-up." of a talk, whether to one farmer or a crowd. We call attention to the good points in one or more of the publications, the **pictures** also, **hammer** it in **hard**, and the bulletins are taken like hot cakes, begging me to send them one or more in the mail, if not enough to go around.

Now the secret of all this, is, to get them **interested** in the publication and the subject matter, by a good old-fashioned "quarrel" with them, as to their **duties** towards their own crops, land, home, etc. It works like a charm. Remember, Mr. Lecturer, our farmers won't remember all the good things you tell them.

There are no better bulletins published in these United States, and I see all of them nearly, especially for our Negro farmers, than are published by Professor Carver at Tuskegee, the Extension Division headed by Mr. Calloway at Tuskegee and our various Southern State Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations.

FARMERS, get wise, read more, it will perhaps cause to be made more bread and butter, better LOOKING farms, more improved livestock, happier home life, in fact, everything leading to a finer farm life.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the institute for colored teachers of Macon County will be held at Tuskegee Institute, beginning at ten o'clock on Wednesday, October 4th, and closing at noon on Saturday following. Under the law, all schools for Negroes in the county, if any have opened, will be automatically closed while the institute is in session, and all teachers receiving public funds will be required to attend upon penalty of having their contracts voided.

The uniform fee will be 75 cents, and each teacher will be required to bring a copy of "Teaching the Common Branches."

W. B. RILEY,
County Superintendent of Education.

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VERNON W. BARNETT----*Editor and Business Mgr.*

Entered as Second-Class Mail Matter, February 4, 1914, at the Post Office at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1916

The Vital Need of Rural Organization

Man, by nature is a social being and makes his greatest progress in proportion as he comes in contact with his neighbor. That life that is selfish, narrow and isolated is not in keeping with the laws of human development and hence must fail. There is no business or profession where organization is more essential to the highest success and happiness of its members than that of farming. Upon the farm as in other avocations, we are "Our brother's keeper," and that community is happiest and most prosperous whose inhabitants realize that life is a bundle of relationships and that the substantial progress we make is directly proportional to the service we render to those by whom we are surrounded. The farmer is not only confronted by the important question of how to provide bread for the hungry and drink for the thirsty, but how to keep, on the farm, a strong, intelligent, contented and vigorous population that will contribute its share to the well-being of society. What can effect this noble purpose better than systematic organization—not necessarily secret organization—but organizations that will cure, as it were, the many rural ills and complaints so very prevalent in many communities?

Farmers' Conferences

No community should be without its Farmers' Conference for it has to do with the direct betterment of the farm—the general uplift of the community. It is the very key to rural progress and provides an opportunity not only to discuss the problems of the present, but opens the avenue to new and greater possibilities. Not only to improve the old system of farming, but to introduce entirely new methods with different results. Cattle raising, dairying, hog raising, co-operative marketing, good schools, good homes and useful citizens are the direct results of these community organizations. We shall never be able to successfully combat the boll weevil except through co-operative effort. What if I burn my cotton stalks, uproot the stumps, bed my land early, cultivate fast and gather and burn the squares, what have I accomplished unless my neighbors in the meantime do the same thing?

Boys' and Girls' Clubs

In connection with rural organization, the clubs with which the boys and girls are connected are doing a far-reaching service. The membership of these clubs has now reached 250,000 and the activities are not simply confined to the growing of corn but to potatoes, canning, home gardening, farm and home handicraft, alfalfa and poultry clubs, sewing clubs, home-management and various other activities.

Much interest is also shown in the pig club movement and today this work is carried on in thirteen States with a total membership of 9,000. Under the wise leadership of Prof. James L. Sibley, State Supervisor of Negro Rual Schools of Alabama, the Negro boys and girls of this State are being rapidly organized into the various community clubs and inestimable good has already been done in helping to shape the destinies of these young people. This community organization among these boys and girls is giving them a keener devotion for country life and will evidently result in a more wholesome and satisfactory rural condition.

Health Clubs

Of the several organizations of the community there is none more important than a "Keep Well Club," for no people can reach the highest point of usefulness unless they learn how to take care of their health. It is startling to know the large sums of hard earned money paid out each year by our people because of sickness that could have been avoided. Just a little thought, a little effort on our part will enable us not only to save the money already made but to protect ourselves from diseases that are so prevalent because of ignorance.

No community should be without a "Home Makers' Club;" for one of the chief attributes of health is a thorough knowledge of sanitary housekeeping. The mother or house-keeper's position is one of vital importance to the healthful condition of the family. Properly and not hurridly cooked food improves its flavor, destroys disease germs, overcomes the tough fibre of vegetables, preserves nutritious elements and makes the food easier digested. We should never be so busy as to neglect our diet. A good warm meal is more easily digested than a cold one. How many are there of us who, over-anxious to get back to our work, satisfy ourselves with cold food hastily eaten. Are we not inviting sickness and disease by this continued abuse of our bodies?

Another essential to health and digestion is a happy frame of mind. We should endeavor to throw our day's worries and perplexities aside during meal hours and cultivate a happy state of mind. Since the teeth are one of the means of digestion as well as a happy frame of mind and a proper preparation of food, much care and attention should be given them also.

The Air We Breathe

What is more freely given than the fresh air we breathe? How many of us have learned the necessity of feeding upon it during the hours of repose as well as when awake? Do we ventilate our sleeping chambers, or do we inhale the poisonous breaths of our room-mates? Let us ventilate our homes—breathe God's pure fresh air. We can obtain it without price—can the same be said of the medicine prescribed by our doctors?

Let us organize ourselves into some useful club—stick to our farms, and not throng the congested cities—for there are thousands of unfortunate city inhabitants who would give all, could they enjoy the pure, life-giving elements that country life affords.

Items of Interest

Miss Mary C. Ross, principal of the public school at Bluffton, Ga., is planning to have a big farmers' meeting connected with an educational rally, Friday, September 29. She writes that she is expecting a large number of farmers from different parts of Early and adjacent counties, and that a goodly number of the leading white people will also be present. She has invited Mr. W. M. Rakestraw, Tuskegee Negro Conference Agent, to be the speaker of the day.

Mrs. Hattie R. Smith, Jeanes Supervisor of Houston County, Alabama, is planning to have an exhibition of the work of her Canning Clubs in the courthouse in Dothan, Alabama, Saturday, October 7. She, with the assistance of the county Superintendent, Hon. Jno. M. Odom, is making strenuous efforts to have the farmers of Houston County and their wives well represented at this fair. The indications are that she will have a large gathering of people, both white and colored, that day. Invitation has come for Mr. W. M. Rakestraw, Conference Agent, to address the audience in the courthouse.

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A Word of Warning

By M. E. Norris, M. D., Interne, Health Department, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama

The old saying, that there is a time and season for all things does not seem to change as the ages go on. In fact, the more adaptable man is in working out this idea, the more efficient he becomes in the equation of life.

Now that autumn is here it is well to be mindful of some things that are of vital importance to us. Besides the reaping of the harvest, and the grinding of the corn, there is another great reaping, the coming of the grim reaper, death. This last reaping is largely due to the disease peculiar at this season, namely, typhoid fever.

Besides the sick, suffering, and great money loss, there is a large number of about 25,000 persons who die in the United States every year of this scourge. Most of these deaths occur in the fall. Every wise person wants to guard against anything that is hurtful to his family's health or his own. Although typhoid occurs mostly in the fall, it may occur at any other season of the year being much more abundant in warm weather than cold.

Aside from the misery of this disease, it is a great money loss especially to the farmer at this particular time, as this is the season of picking the cotton, digging the potatoes, saving the corn, cutting the sugar cane, etc.

To have the mother of the family detained from her post four or six weeks ill would be a great set back. For besides caring for the home, preparing the meals, looking after the children she oftimes fills an important place in the field work. Then if the father is sick, very often the whole farm work is stopped. Care of the children gives much the same concern.

Not all the people who have typhoid die, but a great many never completely recover and are left weakened to fight out the rest of their existence. The successful farmer knows too well the old adage, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." The insects that give continual warfare teach us fully to appreciate its wisdom. There are many accidents which happen to us, over which we have little or no control, but the development of science has taught us both how to prevent and control typhoid. No more do we read of the great loss in the army from its destructive forces which was once greater than shot and shell.

The fever is due to a small germ which cannot be seen with the naked eye. This tiny germ that causes typhoid fever is mostly taken into the body by the food we eat or the water we drink. Therefore, at this particular time a great deal of care should be exercised in the matter of eating and drinking.

The house fly, which has been properly called the most deadly enemy of mankind, is an active agent in spreading the disease. The body and the legs and feet are covered with tiny hairs which catch all kinds of filth germs whenever they come in contact with filthy material. Then it flies with its body laden with poisonous organisms to the table where the food is and drops them in it by running over and falling into it.

To kill all the flies would in a large measure stop typhoid fever. To be free from typhoid the flies must be shut out, starved out, and when they come in killed out. This can be done by screening when possible all windows and doors. The slop bucket which usually furnishes them their feeding place in most homes must be clean and tightly covered. No peeling from fruits and vegetables must be allowed to stand. Watermelon rinds and everything upon which flies feed must be removed. Traps may be set where screens cannot be had. A hand swat is very serviceable in killing the extra ones. If cooking is done out of doors, cover up the food, dishes and cooking utensils. The breeding place of flies should be sprinkled with borax or a mixture of one-half pound hellebore to ten gallons of water. This not only kills flies but prevents their eggs from hatching. If there is typhoid in the community be sure that all the water and milk for cooking and drinking purposes are boiled for at least fifteen minutes and cooled before using. Beware of eating in typhoid homes and communities. All raw fruit should be washed and peeled before eating, especially those bought from the fruit stands in the villages where they are exposed. If there is typhoid in the home, have one person only to nurse the sick. This person should not go in the kitchen to prepare meals nor cook. Separate dishes should be used for the typhoid patient, and these boiled in the room after each meal and washed separately. The same is true of the drinking cups. Any one sick of typhoid must be in

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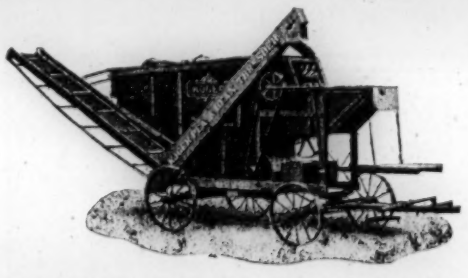

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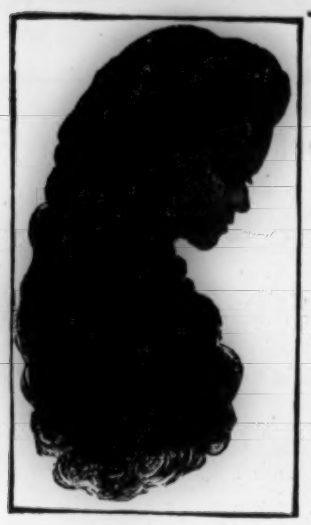

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Tuskegee Institute, Alabama

a room absolutely alone or outdoors in a tent or under a shelter. There is danger of catching and spreading the disease when others sleep in the room and every one waiting on the sick. The nurse after handling the patient should wash her hands in a solution, one part of bicloride of mercury to 500 parts water and all linen and waste material from the patient should be put in a solution of carbolic one part, to water twenty parts, for one-half hour before removing from the room.

Besides spreading typhoid, the house fly spreads other diseases, namely: dysentery infantile diarrhea, and possibly tuberculosis, small pox, and a number of other rare diseases.

If the slogan of the farmer will be "no more flies" it will naturally follow there will be no more typhoid.

An Interesting Letter

From Annie B. Dumas, Secretary, Home Makers' Club, Hickory Grove Community

August 18, 1916.

Dear Editor of the NEGRO FARMER:

It has been quite a while since you all have heard from us, but we are still trying to uplift our community.

Miss Cunningham, our new supervisor, is with us regularly and we are always glad when she is in our midst, because she seems to be so interested in the Girls' Homemakers Club, and the members of the club seem to enjoy being led by her. Our members have put up 318 jars of fruit and vegetables this summer. In this number we have canned beans, okra, tomatoes, peas, peaches, pears, apples, and figs. We have also made several varieties of jellies, pickles, and preserves.

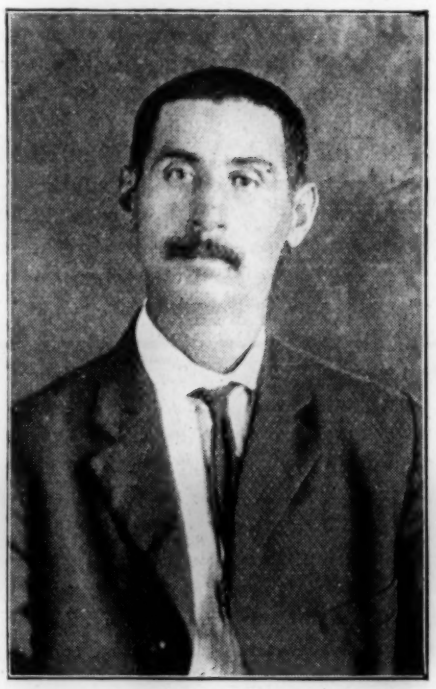
We feel that we have made some progress this summer and hope another summer to do more.

We have also improved our flower yards.

Yours truly,

ANNIE B. DUMAS,
Secretary, Homakers' Club.

A Progressive Farmer



The above photograph is that of Mr. W. P. Mabane, a very progressive farmer, of Collierville, Lafayette County, Tennessee. Mr. Mabane owns 130 acres of land and raises his food supplies; he has fifteen head of cattle. His wife, Mrs. Mabane, has a yard full of chickens and sells every year $75 worth of milk, butter, chickens, eggs and vegetables. Mr. Mabane sells every year about $260 worth of mules and horses. He has a mare about 19 years of age, whose picture will be shown in the next issue of The Negro Farmer and Messenger. From this mare he has been able to raise ten colts—five fillies and five horse-colts. He has sold $850 worth of them and has two on hand now. His son owns one of the colts for which he has refused $500. Mr. Mabane says there is much money in live-stock raising. He sends his children to school and spends his money in assisting in building schoolhouses in his county and community.

Mr. Mabane plans to attend the coming Tuskegee Negro Conference which convenes

January 17, 1917. He and the other leading men in his community are arranging now with the Railroad Company for a special car for the Negro Conference trip. They plan to bring in the special car seventy-five or one hundred farmers.

The Sunday School Lesson

By Rev. G. L. Imes,
Dean of Bible Training School, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama

October 1 — **The Plot That Failed** — Acts 23

When in our last lesson, Paul made the declaration that he had a divine commission to carry the gospel to the Gentiles, the uproar that followed put his life in danger, as it had been many times before. Thereupon the chief captain decided to have a formal council of the Jews where the leaders of the people might present their charges in a clear and intelligible form and Paul might make answer to them as he saw fit. The council was called but before it had gotten far in its deliberations the Pharisees and Sadduccess, the two great sects among the Jews, fell into dissension over the question of the resurrection of the dead, with the result that the Pharisees, who believed in the resurrction of the dead, became Paul's defenders; for Paul everywhere preached that Jesus had been raised from the dead.

But here again the uproar became so great that the captain feared for Paul's life, and had the soldiers rescue him by force from the council and bring him again to the castle. Then his enemies among the Jews fearing that he would escape out of their hands bound themselves with an oath to kill him. They planned to have him brought again to the council on the pretext of making further inquiries about him, and at an unguarded moment to rush upon him and slay him. But it turned out that Paul's nephew, the son of his sister, heard of their plot, and hastened to bring the news to Paul. When Paul heard it he sent the boy to the captain, to whom he told all that he knew about the plot. At once the captain got busy. The best thing to be done, he concluded was to get Paul out of Jerusalem to Caesarea, the capital of the province, where the Jews would hardly be so bold. Forthwith he ordered a guard of two hundred soldiers, two hundred spearmen, and seventy horsemen, and in the middle of the night sent them with Paul to Felix, the Governor at Caesarea, to whom also he sent a letter explaining the nature of Paul's case and his reasons for sending him to Caesarea. Thus was Paul delivered from the hands of his enemies and their plot to kill him failed.

Paul's life was filled with a remarkable series of deliverances from perilous situations, many of which are not told us. Part of this is accounted for in the real fact that God was with him, was directing his ways, and giving him a personal supervision of which Paul himself was conscious and on which he implicitly relied. From time to time the Lord appeared in person to Paul and gave him assurance and comfort. The other part of the story is the integrity of Paul. Paul walked in the fear of the Lord, and there was manifest in his life the testimony of David—A thousand shall fall at thy side and ten thousand at thy right hand but it shall not come nigh thee.

For Daily Use: Whom God commissions to a great work, he cares for personally. Righteousness is itself an armor and a defense against the assaults of the wicked.

October 8 — **Paul Before Felix** — Acts 25

When Paul arrived in Caesarea, Felix held him for a few days till he could bring from Jerusalem those who had a charge against him. After five days the High Priest Ananias arrived at the head of a party, bringing also one Tertullus, a Roman orator, the idea being that as a Roman such an one would receive a better hearing from the court. He was thus a sort of lawyer for the Jews. After a flattering introduction Tertullus presents two charges; one, that Paul was stirring up the Jews everywhere to discontent and rebellion against the Roman government. This was calculated to put the Romans against him. The other charge was that he had taken a Gentile into the temple which was a violation of Jewish law. Thus Paul was represented as having violated both the Roman and Jewish law; all for which Ananias and his party gave their assent. Next, Felix gave Paul the chance to answer for himself. Pauls defense was a simple denial of the charges and a challenge to his accusers to prove what Tertullus had claimed. He follows this with his own statement of the case, both of what he had done and what he believed.

Now Felix was familiar with the dissensions common among the Jews; he also had become well acquainted with this "new way" as it was called, this gospel which Paul was preaching. So he refused to give a decision at that time, saying that he wanted to hear Lysias the chief captain who had sent Paul to him. For Paul and his accusers did not agree as to the facts of the case. But there were other motives also in the heart of Felix. In the first place he desired to hear from Paul more concerning the faith in Christ. And after a proper length of time he did come with his wife to hear him. And such was the force of Paul's words that Felix trembled before him. Then also he hoped that Paul himself or his friends would try to secure his release with a large sum of money. But in this last he was disappointed. Nevertheless he gave Paul a great deal of freedom both to receive his friends, and probably to go about the city.

Here we have a good record of Paul's case. Tertullus could be counted upon to make the ablest possible charge against him. It was direct, clear and simple. Paul makes his defense in the same clear, direct and simple style. He made no attempt to win converts; he is not preaching the gospel; he deals simply and solely with the legal aspects of the case. The uppermost question is his freedom and his right to continue his mission. He insists that for all that he counted his commission as coming from God, he was always careful to keep within the law of man and not to offend needlessly the good order of society. Paul was a good citizen; he frequently claimed his rights as a Roman citizen and was anxious to vindicate his loyalty as such. He did it with power and conviction.

For Daily Use: Christianity, discipleship to Jesus Christ is no license to violate the laws of decent society. When a man makes his religion his excuse for violating the Ten Commandments and the law of the land; put him down as a rascal.

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